

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A magneto-optical recording medium comprising four magnetic layers including a mask layer, a reproduction layer, an intermediate layer and a recording layer, wherein the  
5 reproduction layer and the recording layer each have a direction of easy magnetization extending in a layer stacking direction at room temperature, the mask layer and the intermediate layer each have a direction of easy magnetization extending in an in-plane direction at room temperature, the  
10 mask layer, the reproduction layer, the intermediate layer and the recording layer have Curie temperatures  $T_{c1}$ ,  $T_{c2}$ ,  $T_{c3}$  and  $T_{c4}$ , respectively, which satisfy relationships of  $T_{c3} < T_{c2}$ ,  $T_{c3} < T_{c4}$  and  $T_{c3} < T_{c1}$ , and the intermediate layer is a rare-earth-rich magnetic layer.

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